

CITY OF GRANDVIEW
Yakima County, Washington
January 1, 1992 Through December 31, 1992

Schedule Of Findings

1. The City Should Comply With Bid Law Requirements

In 1992, the City of Grandview expanded the wastewater treatment plant and associated spray fields for a total cost of approximately \$80,000. The city did not call for bids on the project.

RCW 35.23.353 states in part:

(1) Any . . . city or town may construct any public works . . . by contract or day labor without calling for bids therefor whenever the estimated cost of the work or improvement, including cost of materials, supplies and equipment will not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars if more than one craft or trade is involved with the public works, or twenty thousand dollars if a single craft or trade is involved with the public works . . . The restrictions in this subsection do not permit the division of the project into units of work or classes of work to avoid the restriction on work that may be performed by day labor on a single project.

RCW 35.23.352 further states:

(1) . . . Whenever the cost of the public work or improvement, including materials, supplies, and equipment, will exceed these figures, the same shall be done by contract. All such contracts shall be let at public bidding upon posting notice calling for sealed bids upon the work . . .

Without calling for competitive bids, the city cannot be assured that it received the best possible price. Additionally, without competitive bids, interested contractors do not have the opportunity to submit proposals.

The city indicated it had not considered the expansion project to be a single project with a cost in excess of bid requirements.

We recommend the city establish controls and procedures to ensure competitive bids in accordance with state statutes.